

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

XMM-Newton observations of the first unidentified TeV gamma-ray source TeV J2032+4130[★]

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ABSTRACT

Context. The first unidentified very high energy gamma ray source (TeV J2032+4130) in the Cygnus region has been the subject of intensive search for a counterpart source at other wavelengths. In particular, observations in radio and X-rays are important to trace a population of non-thermal electrons.

Aims. A deep (≈ 50 ksec) exposure of TeV J2032+4130 with *XMM-Newton* has been obtained. The large collection area and the field of view of the X-ray telescopes on-board of *XMM-Newton* allow to search for faint extended X-ray emission possibly linked to TeV J2032+4130.

Methods. The contribution of point sources to the observed X-ray emission from TeV J2032+4130 is subtracted from the data. The point-source subtracted X-ray data are analyzed using blank sky exposures and regions adjacent to the position of TeV J2032+4130 in the field of view covered by the XMM-Newton telescopes to search for diffuse X-ray emission.

Results. An extended X-ray emission region with a full width half maximum (FWHM) size of ≈ 12 arc min is found. The centroid of the emission is co-located with the position of TeV J2032+4130. The angular extension of the X-ray emission region is slightly smaller than the angular size of TeV J2032+4130 (FWHM= 14 ± 3 arc min). The energy spectrum of the emission coinciding with the position and extension of TeV J2032+4130 can be modeled by a power-law model with a photon index $\Gamma = 1.5 \pm 0.2_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.3_{\text{sys}}$ and an energy flux integrated between 2 and 10 keV of $f_{2-10 \text{ keV}} \approx 7 \cdot 10^{-13}$ ergs/(cm² s) which is lower than the very high energy gamma-ray flux observed from TeV J2032+4130. The energy flux detected from the extended emission region is about a factor of two smaller than the summed contribution of the point sources present. The energy spectrum can also be fit with a thermal emission model from an ionized plasma with a temperature $k_B T \approx 10$ keV.

Conclusions. We conclude that the faint extended X-ray emission discovered in this observation is the X-ray counterpart of TeV J2032+4130. Formally, it can not be excluded that the extended emission is due to an unrelated population of faint, hot ($k_B T \approx 10$ keV) unresolved point-sources which by chance coincides with the position and extension of TeV J2032+4130. We discuss our findings in the frame of both hadronic and leptonic gamma-ray production scenarios.

1. Introduction

Ground based air Cherenkov telescopes have detected in the last 6 years a number of unidentified sources of very high energy (VHE, $E > 100$ GeV) gamma-rays located in the Galactic plane. The first representative of these sources (TeV J2032+4130) was discovered serendipitously with the HEGRA telescope system in the Cygnus region (Rowell & Horns, 2002; Aharonian et al., 2002).

In a subsequent deep exposure for a total of ≈ 280 hours of observation time the source detection was confirmed and its properties were studied in detail (Horns & Rowell, 2004; Aharonian et al., 2005a).

A remarkable feature of TeV J2032+4130 is the fact that the angular extension of the source is $(6.2 \pm 1.2_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.9_{\text{sys}})$ arc min in radius which corresponds to a FWHM=14 arc min. Gamma-ray emission from TeV J2032+4130 has been confirmed independently by the Whipple collaboration (Lang et al., 2004; Konopelko et al., 2006). A gamma-ray excess from the

Cygnus region albeit more extended was recently reported by the Milagro collaboration (Abdo et al., 2006). The properties of TeV J2032+4130 are common to most of the other unidentified VHE gamma-ray sources that have been discovered with the H.E.S.S. telescopes so far (Aharonian et al., 2005b, 2006a): TeV J2032+4130 can be considered as the proto-type of the unidentified VHE gamma-ray sources known today.

So far, a number of point-like or moderately extended candidates for counterparts of TeV J2032+4130 have been identified at radio (Paredes et al., 2006; Butt et al., 2006b) and X-rays (Butt et al., 2003, 2006a; Mukherjee et al., 2003, 2006).

The origin and nature of TeV J2032+4130 remains unclear. It has been suggested that the nearby ($d = 1.7$ kpc) massive stellar OB association Cyg OB2 (see e.g. Knödlseder (2000)) could be an accelerator of charged cosmic rays and consequently a site of gamma-ray production (Aharonian et al., 2002; Butt et al., 2006a; Aharonian et al., 2006b). This scenario has been strengthened by the recently discovered spatially extended VHE gamma-ray emission from the direction of the open stellar cluster Westerlund 2 (Aharonian et al., 2007).

Other possible explanations for the nature of TeV J2032+4130 have been brought forward including gamma-ray production in

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possible jet lobes of Cyg X-3 (Aharonian et al., 2002), an unknown pulsar wind nebula (Bednarek, 2003), or even extragalactic source candidates as suggested by Mukherjee et al. (2003) and Butt et al. (2006b).

Independent of the nature of the source, two different gamma-ray production mechanisms are generally considered. In the *hadronic scenario*, gamma-rays are produced mainly via inelastic scattering of accelerated nuclei with the ambient medium (see e.g. Aharonian et al. (2005a); Reimer et al. (2006); Domingo-Santamaría & Torres (2006)). Alternatively, in the *leptonic scenario* gamma-rays are produced via inverse Compton scattering of ambient photons from a population of energetic electrons (Aharonian et al., 2005a; Reimer et al., 2006). Recently, it has been suggested, that excitation of giant dipole resonances of relativistic heavy nuclei in radiation dominated environments could be responsible for gamma-ray production in Cyg OB2 (Anchordoqui et al., 2006).

While the gamma-ray observations so far have been inconclusive with respect to the origin of the observed signal, X-ray observations can provide additional information to identify the origin of the emission and to discern between the two proposed scenarios. In this *Letter*, we report the detection of spatially extended X-ray emission coinciding with the position of TeV J2032+4130.

2. Observations and Data analyses

The data were taken during two separate pointings of *XMM-Newton*. Table 1 summarizes the available data and configurations of the instruments used. The data were screened for soft proton flares following the method suggested in Read & Ponman (2003). The detectors performed almost nominally: CCD #6 of the MOS 1 camera had been switched off and CCD #5 of MOS2 shows an increased instrumental background below 1 keV which is two times larger than the background seen in the adjacent CCDs #4 and #6. However, above 1 keV the background rate in CCD #5 appeared consistent with the other detectors. The data suffer from contamination of single scattering events from the bright X-ray source Cyg X-3. The contamination is most prominent in the energy band above 5 keV. For this reason, the analyses that have been performed are constrained on the energy range from 1–5 keV where the instrumental background and stray light contamination from Cyg X-3 are minimal. A closer inspection of the contamination using ray-tracing simulations has shown that the contribution of scattered light from Cyg X-3 to the X-ray emission seen from TeV J2032+4130 is negligible. At the same time, the vignetting of the telescopes is smallest in this energy range (Kirsch, 2006; Pradas & Kerp, 2005).

Data reduction and analyses were performed using the Standard XMM-Newton Science Analysis Software SAS v7.0.

2.1. Search for diffuse X-ray emission

In an initial step of the data analyses, a catalogue of sources detected in the 1–5 keV energy range is assembled using the `edetect_chain` task simultaneously for the MOS1, MOS2, and EPIC pn cameras for each of the two exposures. The minimum detection likelihood is set to a low value of 2. This way, 13.5 % of the detected sources are due to statistical fluctuations while at the same time, more and fainter sources are detected than with the default value of 10. A detailed study of the point sources detected in this XMM-Newton observation will be presented elsewhere. Here, the source catalogue has been used to generate model images of the point sources separately for each camera and pointing taking into account the position dependent point

spread function of the XMM-Newton mirrors. These model images are then subtracted off the individual frames of the three cameras and for the two pointings. Within the 6.2' region covered by the extension of the TeV source, a total energy flux of $f_{1-5 \text{ keV}} \approx 10^{-12} \text{ ergs/(cm}^2 \text{ s)}$ associated with point sources is observed. In order to subtract the particle and extragalactic photon background blank sky event files for the corresponding observation modes and filter settings have been obtained from the XMM guest observers' facility¹. The blank field data have been processed to match the observational data and the resulting images are subtracted off the pointings towards TeV J2032+4130. The images for the MOS1 and MOS2 cameras obtained from the two exposures are combined to form a background subtracted mosaic. The images of the EPIC pn camera have been omitted because of artefacts resulting from over-subtracting the contribution of point sources. For each of the four remaining images, exposure maps have been generated using the SAS task `eexpmap`. The exposure maps are combined in a mosaic which is then trimmed to a minimum exposure of 5 ksec corresponding to roughly 5 % of the peak value. The background subtracted mosaic is then divided by the exposure map to obtain an exposure corrected, background subtracted, and source free image. Fig. 1 shows three images of the combined exposures of the MOS1 and MOS2 cameras before the subtraction of the model images of the point sources (a), after the subtraction and smoothing with Gaussian of fixed width of 45 arc sec (b), and finally, the image after convolving it with a Gaussian of fixed width of 1.5 arc min (c). Note the presence of scattered light along ring segments in the southern part of Fig. 1a. While Fig. 1b shows indications for the presence of a rim-like feature resembling the morphology observed in radio by Paredes et al. (2006), it should be noted that the subtraction of point-sources has an impact on the observed morphology on angular scales small compared to the extension of the detected extended emission. For a comparison with the extension and morphology of the gamma-ray source TeV J2032+4130, contours are overlaid to Fig. 1c. The X-ray image shows an extended emission region which is co-located with TeV J2032+4130 and of similar extension. The exposure corrected image of the diffuse emission is fit by a Gaussian with a width of $(5.1 \pm 0.3) \text{ arc min}$ which corresponds to a $\text{FWHM} = (11.7 \pm 0.6) \text{ arc min}^2$.

2.2. Energy spectrum of the diffuse X-ray emission

In order to determine the energy spectrum of the diffuse X-ray emission, the contribution of the point sources has to be removed by excising regions around the sources. We use an excising region adapted to the point spread function and brightness of the source. The size of the region is chosen such that the relative contribution of the source to the local background is less than 20 % at the boundary of the excised region. The wings of the point spread function lead to a contamination of the detected diffuse emission which amounts to 27 % of the excess signal seen. This effect of contamination would be however compensated by the opposite effect caused by the diffuse emission present in the excised region ($\approx 25 \%$) and therefore excluded from the reconstructed energy spectrum. We estimate the systematic uncertainty of this contamination to be 10 % of the total flux. The energy spectra of a source region with a radius of 6.2' centered on the position of TeV J2032+4130 from the MOS2 and EPIC pn

¹ <ftp://xmm.esac.esa.int>

² all errors given throughout the paper are to the confidence of one standard deviation

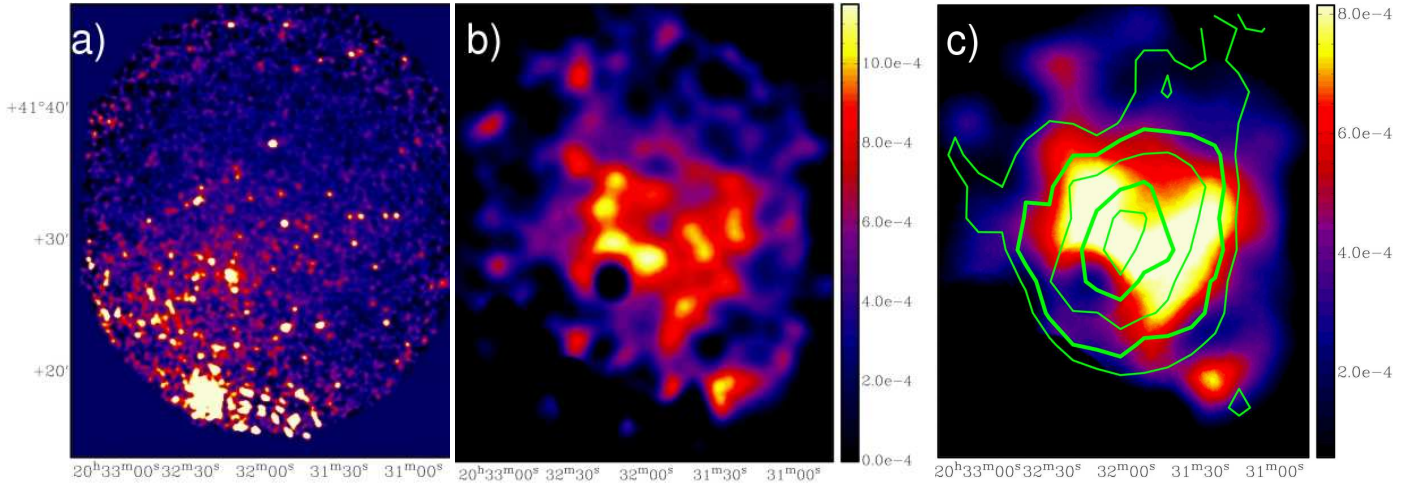


Fig. 1. Background subtracted and exposure corrected images obtained from the combined exposures of the MOS1 and MOS2 cameras (in units of counts/(sec arcmin²)). While the left image shows the emission including all point sources, the middle image shows the image after subtracting off all point sources and smoothed with a Gaussian of 45 arc sec width. Finally, the right image is obtained by smoothing the source subtracted image with a Gaussian of 1.5 arc min width and changing the scaling to highlight the extended X-ray emission present. The green contours indicate (in linear spacing) the significance contour of the HEGRA observations (starting at 3 σ).

cameras of the second pointing (ObsID 0305560201) are extracted. The second pointing is centered 5' north of the centroid of TeV J2032+4130 and therefore, we can choose a background region which is mirrored through the center of the field of view and has a similar acceptance as the source extraction region. Using the background region in the same field of view, the background estimate includes all relevant background components including X-ray emission from the Galactic ridge and the particle and instrumental background specific to this observation. The small azimuthal modulation of the acceptance of the MOS cameras can be neglected along this direction. The MOS1 camera is not used because the disabled CCD#6 unfortunately does not allow to cover the entire source.

The response files are generated for these particular observations using the standard tools *arfgen* and *rmfgen*. Finally, the geometrical areas of the source and background regions are calculated taking gaps between the CCDs, bad pixels, and point source exclusion regions into account. The resulting background subtracted X-ray spectrum is fit with a power-law as well as an optically thin hot plasma model (*apec*) including photoelectric absorption (*phabs*). The spectral fitting of the two spectra was done using the *xspect* v11.3.2p spectral fitting package (Arnaud, 1996). The fit describes the data well (see Table 2 for a summary of the fit parameters; only statistical 1 σ errors are quoted).

In order to estimate the influence of faint, unresolved point sources present in the stellar cluster, we have reduced X-ray imaging data taken with the Chandra satellite (Obs.# 4501 for 48.6 ksec on TeV J2032+4130 and Obs.# 4511 for 98.7 ksec in the south-west of TeV J2032+4130, centered on the core of Cyg OB2). Based upon a comparison of the Chandra and XMM-Newton source catalogues and the study of the X-ray source population present in the Cyg OB2 cluster (Colombo et al., 2006), we estimate that point sources below the XMM-Newton detection limit can contribute up to $\approx 30\%$ of the observed diffuse emission. It is however not straight-forward to correct the observed excess for the unresolved point sources detected with Chandra as the flux of the sources is generally found to vary with time. We estimate the systematic uncertainty on the flux conservatively to be 50 % combining the influence of the unre-

Table 1. Summary of observation times and configurations on the target “TeV J2032+4130”. All instruments were operated in full frame mode with a medium filter. The exposure quoted in parenthesis is for the EPIC pn camera.

ObsID	Date	R.A. J2000	Dec. J2000	Exposure [ksec]
0305560101	2005-10-21	20:31:57	41:29:58	27.3(23.6)
0305560201	2005-10-25	20:31:57	41:34:55	25.8(20.5)

Table 2. Summary of the fit results of the X-ray energy spectrum with a power-law model (*powerlaw*) or thermal emission (*apec* with fixed solar abundances of the plasma) including photoelectric absorption (*phabs*).

Parameter	Value (<i>powerlaw</i>)	Value (<i>apec</i>)
N_H [10^{21} cm ⁻²]	3.5 ± 1.6	3.2 ± 1.1
$\Gamma, k_B T$ [keV]	1.5 ± 0.2	10.5 ± 3.2
f_{2-10} keV [10^{-13} ergs/(cm ² s)]	7.3 ± 1.1	7.4 ± 1.1
χ^2_{red} (d.o.f.)	1.02 (862)	1.01 (861)

solved point sources ($\approx 30\%$), uncertainties on the background subtraction ($\approx 10\%$), as well as the tails of the point spread functions of excised point sources ($\approx 10\%$). The total, unabsorbed energy flux derived from the model fit (see Table 2) is found to be $f_{2-10} = (7.3 \pm 3.5_{\text{sys}} \pm 1.1_{\text{stat}}) \times 10^{-13}$ ergs/(cm² s).

3. Conclusions

The XMM-Newton observations presented here indicate the presence of an extended (FWHM=11.7 arc min) X-ray source co-located with the first unidentified VHE gamma-ray source TeV J2032+4130 discovered with the HEGRA air Cherenkov telescope system. The size of the X-ray source is similar to the one of TeV J2032+4130. The energy spectrum can be fit by a power-law model or by a thermal emission model with a plasma temperature of $k_B T \approx 10$ keV. The unabsorbed energy flux of

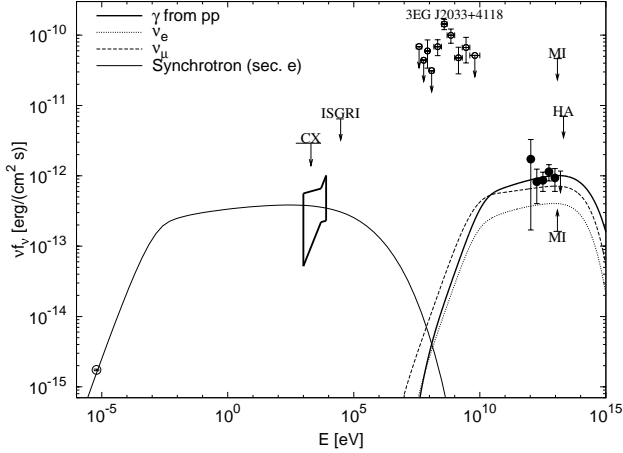


Fig. 2. The spectral energy distribution of TeV J2032+4130: the bow-tie indicates the energy spectrum as measured with XMM-Newton including systematic and statistical uncertainties. The lines indicate the result of a model calculation for a hadronic gamma-ray and neutrino production scenario for a continuously active accelerator of protons up to a maximum energy of 5 PeV at an age of $t_{\text{age}} = 2500$ yrs and magnetic field $B = 1$ mG. The radio flux point of a possible non-thermal extended radio-source at $\lambda = 20$ cm (Paredes et al., 2006) is assumed to be an upper limit to the actual radio emission associated with TeV J2032+4130. The upper limits between 0.5–5 keV (CX, Chandra) and 20–40 keV (ISGRI, INTEGRAL) are taken from Butt et al. (2006a). The energy spectrum of the EGRET source 3EG J2030+4118 (Hartman et al., 1999) is considered to be an upper limit. The Milagro (MI) upper limit is the integrated emission in a 3×3 ($^\circ$)² region (Abdo et al., 2006) while the lower limit (MI) is scaled to the solid angle covered by TeV J2032+4130 assuming a uniform surface brightness. The upper limit from the HEGRA-AIROBICC (HA) wide angle Cherenkov detector is taken from Aharonian et al. (2002).

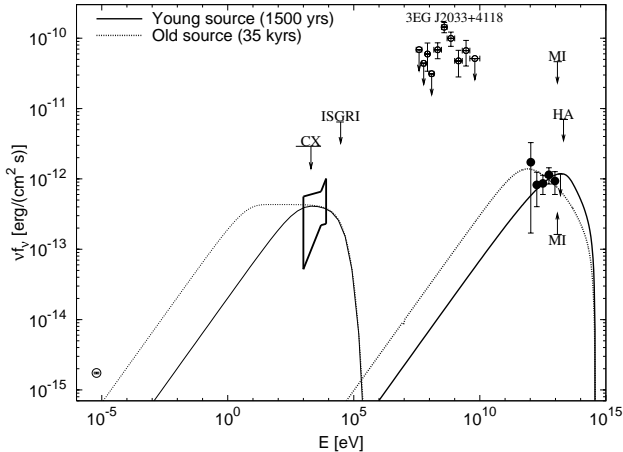


Fig. 3. In the leptonic scenario, the data are described well by a young source of an age of 1500 yrs, a magnetic field of $B = 3 \mu\text{G}$ and an energy density of the seed photon field of $w_{\text{IR}} = 3 \text{ eV}/\text{cm}^3$ with a grey body temperature of $T = 10 \text{ K}$. As an alternative, an older source at an age of 35 kyrs is shown ($B = 3 \mu\text{G}$, $w_{\text{IR}} = 1 \text{ eV}/\text{cm}^3$). For a description of the multi-wavelength data see the caption of Fig. 2.

the X-ray source in the energy range from 2–10 keV is a factor of 2–3 smaller than the one observed from TeV J2032+4130 at energies from 1–10 TeV.

We note that the observed extended X-ray emission could in principle be a so far unknown population of faint X-ray sources that are by chance distributed at an angular size which is similar to the one of TeV J2032+4130. The energy spectrum of these sources would have to be different from the bulk of the stellar X-ray sources detected from Cyg OB2 (Colombo et al., 2006) which on average show a thermal spectrum with $k_B T \approx 1 \dots 3 \text{ keV}$. Taking these considerations into account, we conclude that the observed extended X-ray emission is the X-ray counterpart of TeV J2032+4130.

Initial modeling of the X-ray and gamma-ray energy spectra using a hadronic gamma-ray production scenario indicates that the observed spectra can be naturally explained by a young (a few kyrs) “Pevatron” accelerator. The observation of synchrotron X-ray emission up to $\approx 5 \text{ keV}$ constrains the product of the square of maximum energy of accelerated protons (E_{max}^2) and magnetic field (B) to exceed $E_{\text{max}}^2 \cdot B \gtrsim 5 \text{ PeV}^2 \text{ mG}$. In this picture, the gamma-ray energy spectra would continue without cut-off well beyond 10 TeV. The hard X-ray emission from a similar source size region as the gamma-ray emission is a natural prediction within this model where the X-rays are produced by synchrotron emission of secondary electrons. Notably, in the frame of this model, the extended gamma-ray emission found by the Milagro collaboration would be explained by gamma-rays produced by accelerated particles of energies $\gtrsim 100 \text{ TeV}$ which have already escaped the accelerator.

A leptonic scenario provides a valid explanation of the observations as well (see Fig. 3). In this scenario, a young accelerator with a low magnetic field of a few μG accelerating electrons following a power-law distribution with $dN/dE \propto E^{-2}$ reaching up to energies of a few 100 TeV can provide a good fit to the X-ray and gamma-ray data. In contrary to the hadronic scenario, the gamma-ray energy spectrum above 10 TeV is expected to be rather soft due to un-avoidable Klein-Nishina suppression of inverse Compton scattering. Furthermore, the seed photon density has to be higher than the average value in the interstellar medium (which is not unlikely given the possible proximity to the Cyg OB2 stellar association and the large stellar extinction towards that region indicating high density of dust). In the leptonic scenario, the X-ray spectrum can be expected to vary at different parts of the source due to cooling effects. More X-ray observations will be required to detect spectral variability.

Finally, neutrino observations will prove decisive to discern between the two emission scenarios (since neutrinos are only expected in the hadronic scenario). Even though the neutrino flux calculated here is very likely not detectable with the coming generation of neutrino telescopes like IceCube (Achterberg et al., 2006), it may be that the gamma-ray flux detected with Milagro from the same region is tracing the high energy particles which have already left the accelerator and fill a much larger volume. In this case, the region around TeV J2032+4130 would be a powerful high energy neutrino source and would be detectable with future neutrino telescopes (Beacom & Kistler, 2007).

It should be noted that the observations of TeV J2032+4130 carried out with XMM-Newton are so far the deepest observations available for any of the unidentified VHE gamma-ray sources. It will be interesting to perform similar observations to search for faint, extended X-ray counterparts of other unidentified VHE gamma-ray sources.

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